



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 8

Meeting Date: March 21, 2008

Meeting Location: Vigo County DCS
30 N. 8th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47803

Council Members Present: David Uberto, Regional Manager, Region 8; Mike Baker, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Diana Thomson, Clay County FCM; Pamela Connelly, Vigo County Director; Katie Edington, Vermillion/Parke County Director; Nikki Fuhrmeister, CASA, Vigo County

Council Members Absent: Hon. Paulette Stagg, Vigo County; James/Linda Scarbrough, Vigo County Foster Parent; Hon. P. J. Pierson, Sullivan; Hon. Bruce Stengel, Vermillion; Hon. Sam Swaim, Parke; Hon. Joseph Trout, Clay

Others in Attendance: Diana Newnum, Parke/Vermillion DCS Supervisor; Mike Goodwin, Sullivan County DCS Supervisor; Molly Coulston, Gibault, Inc.; Molly Price, Gibault, Inc.; Emily Owens, Wraparound Vigo County; Deb Johnson, Intake Director Life Line Youth; Jody Horstman, Hamilton Center; Peggy Weber, ISU Department of Social Work; Nyala Bolen, Friends of Families

<h3>Meeting Minutes</h3>

Meeting Called to Order at: 9:00 A.M.

Dave Uberto welcomed attendees and led the introductions. Minutes were read from the January 25, 2008 meeting. Tiffany Romine from Gibault was added to those in attendance. Jody Horstman made a correction in the Additional Business/Corrections area to the January minutes:

Jody Horstman from Hamilton Center said the Access to Recovery services must be provided by a certified provider. The maximum cost is \$3200 per enrollee with an average cost of \$1600. There are a maximum number of units. Hamilton Center will not be a HIP provider as we would need to charge a co-pay significantly higher than our current fee schedule. It takes 3 hours to enroll someone in the HIP program with a staff person assisting the client.

Jody also spoke a little on Managed Medicaid for kids. HCI in Vigo County is working with of the managed care companies. They are continuing to evolve what they are going to authorize and deny. This managed care company, CompCare, has the highest denial rate.

She also talked about the MRO Match. The state's match for federal funds is being questioned. The current way it is working in Indiana is not acceptable. The State will not have as much money to pay match, which will impact community mental health centers' ability to provide MRO services. The providers have done a good job educating legislators.

1. Region 8 Personnel Update

Dave reported we are fully staffed at the FCM level. We have five (5) you will be completing new worker training on April 16, 2008. Region 8 had seven (7) begin their training on March 10, 2008. Vigo County hired two (2) new supervisors on March 10, 2008.

2. Peer Coach Training Update

The new workers in training now will be our last wave of training and we will be complete by July 1, 2008. Families feel like they are empowered during this process and this has been proven to be very effective. We will be able to engage more families as we feel more comfortable in the training.

3. DCS/DFR Update

DFR/ACS employees are gone in the Vigo County office located at 30 North 8th Street. The Service Center in Vigo is located in the lower level of the Meadows Mall. Some clients are still coming in wanting to know where their case worker is, but we are doing well with the transition.

Sullivan County started construction on the DFR side yesterday. They should be done a week from today. Clay is wrapping up the DFR side and hopefully next week will be starting on the DCS side. We are reasonably certain Vigo will be staying here and occupying all of the second floor and a third of the third floor. The paperwork hasn't been signed yet.

Jim Payne presented in a meeting all office issues will be settled by July 1, 2008. Parke and Vermillion County are still having discussions as to the location of their office.

4. Service Coordinator Selection and Child Welfare Bid Selection Process

Dodson, Shively & Associates were selected as our coordinator. They met with Dave on Monday to discuss the bids presented. Dave passed out the proposals to voting members only attending the meeting.

Dave has copies of all the proposals. He can show you a copy of the proposal if you request. Region 8 Management Team will be reading and scoring the proposals the next two weeks. We have to have our recommendations by May 7, 2008.

We will be having a meeting on April 25, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. to share recommendations of the proposals. Non-voting members can attend if they choose, but we will only be allowing voting members to make recommendations. Dave explained the proposal sheet to the attendees. The contracts will become active on January 1, 2009. If you have any questions regarding these, please contact Dave Uberto by phone or email.

5. Additional Business/Comments

Katie Edington gave an update of legislation that will affect the State. House Bill 1001 will affect the State the most.

House Bill 1001 concerns Property Tax Reform. The highlighted issues are:

- Finalizes separation of DCS from FSSA
- Moves funding of child services and child welfare from the county to the state, as a line item in the Department's biennial budget
- Statutorily creates Regional Services Councils and enhances membership, responsibilities
- Modifies Informal Adjustments (IA)
- Structures interactions between DCS and Judges to ensure maximization of federal reimbursement
- Clarifies the Department's role in the investigation of guardianships
- Explains the DCS attorney's role in filing CHINS and terminations
- Defines "adoption assistance" and "adoption fees"
- Provides limitations for personal liability for staff

For our RSC purpose, we are not personally liable and not held liable. The council will be asked to provide for funding. Copies were passed out of the long version of the 2008 Legislative Wrap-Up. Below is a brief summary of the longer version:

2008 Legislative Wrap-Up

House Bill 1001 - Property Tax Reform

- Finalizes separation of DCS from FSSA
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House Bill 1165 – Homeless Children, Foster Youth and Education

- Describes a delivery process for services to the homeless
- Provides that school corporations will adopt provisions for transportation and tutoring services to homeless and foster children
- Statutory enacts foster care sibling visitation procedures
- Requires the Department to be notified by a homeless shelter within 24 hours of the arrival of a child with:
 - The name of the child
 - The address of the shelter/facility
 - Any indication the child is a victim of abuse or neglect
- The Department will, within the next 48 hours, conduct an investigation concerning the child
- The Department shall notify the child's parent/guardian/custodian that the child is in emergency shelter within 72 hours of the child's arrival at the shelter. If abuse or neglect is suspected, the Department may not reveal the location of the facility

House Bill 1259 – Child Safety and CHINS

A Citizen's Review Panel analysis of the Child Fatality Team report identified an increase in the number of drownings in above ground swimming pools. As a result, the Department sought language to restrict access to above ground swimming pools when not in use.

- Provides that all above ground swimming pools sold in Indiana after December 31, 2008 be sold with ladders that may be either removed or secured and locked with not in use.
- Requires DCS to provide notice to foster parents 7 days prior to a periodic review hearing

House Bill 1290 – Foster Care, Child Services and Placement of Children

- Adopts the updated Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC)
- Allows certain foster youth who would normally age-out of the foster care program to receive transitional services until age 21
- Provides foster care services to certain individuals from age 18 – 21 if:
 - The individual requests the Department petition the court
 - The court approves the request
 - The individual is employed, attending a vocational or educational certification or educational degree program or planning to do so within 6 months of the individual's 18th birthday

Other Bills of Note

House Bill 1122 – Juvenile Offenders and Detention Facilities

Any facility that is used or has been used to house or hold juveniles shall give a representative or designee of the Indiana criminal justice institute's compliance monitoring program reasonable access to inspect and monitor the facility to ensure that the requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act are maintained.

House Bill 1144 – Failure to Report a Dead Body

A person who discovers or has custody of the body of a deceased person and who knowingly or intentionally fails to report the dead body to a public safety officer, coroner, physician, or 911 telephone call center within three hours of find the body, when it appears the deceased person died by violence, suicide, accident, or under certain other suspicious or unusual circumstances, commits failure to report a dead body, a Class A misdemeanor.

House Bill 1197 – Data Breaches

Provides that the unauthorized acquisition of a portable electronic device on which personal information is stored does not constitute a breach of security of a system if the contents of the portable electronic device are encrypted and if the encryption key is not compromised.

Senate Bill 27 – Cooling Off Period for Domestic Battery

Requires a facility having custody of a person arrested for a crime of domestic violence to keep the person in custody for at least eight hours from the time of the arrest, and prohibits a person arrested for a crime of domestic violence from being released on bail during the eight hour period.

Senate Bill 207 – Public Records and Criminal Offenders

Provides that a public agency may deny public records requests made by a person incarcerated in a correctional facility if the requested public records: (1) contain personal information concerning a correctional officer, crime victim, or family member of a correctional officer or crime victim; or (2) relate to the security of a jail or correctional facility.

Peggy Weber brought the evaluation of the Laskey Training to the meeting and passed out the results to everyone. We scored very well on the evaluation. She also told the RSC that ISU will be holding in March 2009 with Darla Henry as the speaker. Peggy will give more information at a later date. Peggy also announced they will be having two other conferences. One is on July 8, 2008 with Dennis Baumgartner as the speaker; and the other is in October 2008 with Scott Miller as the speaker. Peggy said she appreciates the counties working with ISU Department of Social Work and their students. She asked about the status of the interns and if we know where they will be going. Dave is going to look into this and get back with Peggy. If anyone has suggestions to add to the program, please let Peggy know.

Jody Horstman gave an update on Medicaid. She attended a manage care focus group last month. She said enough information got back to legislators about the difficulty getting paid. The medical director said the actual date the state used for bids was not truly reflective to the need in Indiana. Thirty percent (30%) of the Medicaid money was taken off the top leaving a pot of money to be divided into the match care agencies. This has led to a clamp down to get continuing services such as group and physiological testing. She took an informal poll with her staff concerning the time it is taking to fill out paperwork to get less money. It increased 400+%. They are trying to redefine the match 37.22% of every dollar that has to be paid back. The intergovernmental transfer piece said it can't be done that way and has to go through the State. There is a proposed memorandum, but there is a difficulty attaching it to a bill in May. The American Hospital Association has filed a lawsuit to stop this. If it goes through, it will define how the money can be used. There has been a lot of communication with mental health centers and FSSA and funding. Indiana didn't have enough money to match to provide MRO services. The State has decided they will forward some money from Medicaid reserve fund, but they are also looking at the Medicaid clinical option. Jody stated at the basic level you have an inability to grow and this will lead to a reduction in services to families that need it. Hamilton Center has contracted with a pharmacy and now has a pharmacy open when clients come in.

Deb Johnson from Lifeline reported they have two (2) new programs for sex offenders for boys. She passed out an introduction folder to everyone attending. If anyone would like information about Lifeline, please contact Deb at 800-509-6884.

Emily Owens gave an update on the Community Alternatives Grant. If they meet the eligibility, they have the option of placement. If you need more information, contact Emily. Family involvement is going well. Angie and Rita are getting parents involved in all levels.

Nikki Fuhrmeister finally completed the CASA training process. She reported 75 volunteers are now on board with CASA. The training takes 30 hours. Dave asked how long someone stays a CASA. Nikki said she has good luck with her volunteers. She has only lost three since she has been involved. It was asked how many families they represent. Nikki said their goal is to have one volunteer per family.

Gibault just got done with a conference on Wednesday understanding the CRTF Grant. They helped people understand how it works. They are getting ready to have a luncheon in conjunction with Bloomington Meadows on April 8, 2008 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. with lunch being served. They are working on a foster care program now. They have approximately 80 clients to date.

Mike Baker reported the Intake Unit is very busy and is the busiest they have been.

Diana Newman finished her supervisor training this week. She said things are going well.

Diana Joslin followed up with the Medicaid issue. This area has gone with the modernization plan and she has experienced this before. DCS has to apply for Medicaid for our clients and wards just like a regular client.

Suzy Cole mentioned we are going through a redesign in ICWIS. This is causing some glitches in the system.

Katie Edington reported to everyone they have a new clinic in Clinton, Indiana. They will take Medicaid as well as other insurance. This office works on a sliding scale. The clinic has to treat the client even if they don't have the money to pay on the sliding scale.

Jim Payne, DCS Director, is coming to Region 8 on April 17, 2008. Vigo County is hosting the visit for Clay, Sullivan and Vigo offices. He will go to Parke and Vermillion County later that day.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 30, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. in the **third** floor conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Addendum to these minutes on April 25, 2008

Voting members of Region 8 RSC met on April 25, 2008 to present our service provider selections to the council. A final decision will be made on the Community Partners contract and will be presented at the May 30, 2008 meeting.